

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 /188 W

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R 261717Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: CAP FOR SOYBEANS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5473

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE EC COMMISSION STATEMENT IN THE
24-25 SEPTEMBER EC COUNCIL MEETING (AGMIN), THAT PROPOSALS
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AIMING AT AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY'S PROTEIN SUPPLY

WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE CHECKED FURTHER WITH OUR CONTACTS ON THIS SUBJECT. SOURCES CLOSE TO COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS HEDGED ON WHETHER SUCH A REGULATION WILL NOW BE PREPARED. IT APPEARS THAT AT LEAST LARDINOIS WISHES TO HAVE SOME LEEWAY BEFORE COMMITTING HIMSELF TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A CAP FOR SOYBEANS TO THE COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE ON THE SEPTEMBER 24 COUNCIL MEETING (AGMIN) STATED INTER ALIA THAT "THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE, WITH SATISFACTION, OF A STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION TO THE EFFECT THAT PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY PROTEIN SUPPLIES WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

3. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT LARDINOIS MADE A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT UPON THE RENEWED DEMAND BY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CHIRAC FOR PROPOSALS FOR CAP REGULATIONS FOR SOYBEANS, FODDER BEANS AND OTHER PROTEIN FEEDS. WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE UK MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE GODBER WELCOMED LARDINOIS' STATEMENT, LIMITING HIMSELF HOWEVER TO SAYING THAT HE IS "CONTENT TO NOTE THAT THE COMMISSION IS STUDYING THE PROTEIN PROBLEM."

4. A WELL-INFORMED COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD US IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING THAT LARDINOIS' STATEMENT MEANS THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NOW GO AHEAD WITH ITS PROPOSALS FOR A SOYBEAN CAP (SEE REFTEL). WHEN WE SOUGHT FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM LARDINOIS' CABINET, HOWEVER, WE WERE TOLD THAT, WHILE IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT A PROPOSAL FOR A SOYBEAN CAP WILL BE MADE SOON, A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT LARDINOIS COMMITTED HIMSELF LITERALLY TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR A CAP FOR PROTEIN FEEDS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, HE COULD SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR FODDER BEANS OR ALFALFA BUT DECIDE ON A PROPOSAL FOR A SOYBEAN CAP ONLY WHEN PRESSED (PRESUMABLY BY THE FRENCH) TO DO SO.

5. WE HAVE ALSO CHECKED WITH THE WORKING-LEVEL COMMISSION SERVICES WHICH WOULD PREPARE THE ANNOUNCED PROPOSALS. THEY SAY THAT AS OF TODAY, SEPTEMBER 26, THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAP FOR SOYBEANS OR OTHER PROTEINS.

6. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM LARDINOIS' CABINET -- CONTRARY TO THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REFTEL -- TO MEAN THAT LARDINOIS IS HESITATING BEFORE FINALLY DECIDING TO PROPOSE A CAP FOR SOYBEANS AND WILL COMMIT HIMSELF ONLY IF THE FRENCH PRESSURE PROVES TOO STRONG. IT SHOULD BE ALSO NOTED THAT TO MAKE A PROPOSAL ON A SOYBEAN CAP

REQUIRES THE ASSENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION. ON THE
OTHER HAND, SENIOR COPA OFFICIALS TELL US THEY BELIEVE CHIRAC
IS SO FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A SOYBEAN CAP THAT THE COMMISSION
AND THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU05501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973097/aaaaafdw.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 EC BRUSSELS 5473
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAP FOR SOYBEANS
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LONDON LUXEMBOURG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005